

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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"DUCK STAMP" CONTEST RULES PROPOSED

The annual "Duck Stamp" contest for wildlife art to adorn the Federal migratory bird hunting revenue stamp required for all waterfowl hunting will be conducted under new rules starting next fall.

The proposed regulations were published recently in the Federal Register by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Public comments are invited through June 1, 1975, and should be addressed to: Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Contest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The new rules will incorporate into the Code of Federal Regulations the procedures developed and used by the Fish and Wildlife Service in administering the contest. The purpose of the proposed rules is to insure continuing impartiality and objectivity in the selection of the winning artwork.

The prestige of winning the contest brings overnight financial reward and immediate acclaim to a wildlife artist each year. The Federal Government offers no prizes in the contest. Commercial wildlife art dealers, however, are usually eager to market limited edition reprints for the winning artist.

The proposed regulations set forth the technical specifications for designs created for the contest. They also describe the procedures to be followed in actually submitting an entry. In addition, the regulations detail the qualifications and selection of the judging panel, the criteria to be used in scoring the various entries submitted, and the voting procedures to be employed by the judging panel.

The stamps were authorized and required by the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of 1934. Popularly known as "Duck Stamps," they are sold through post offices and must be carried by every migratory waterfowl hunter over 16 years of age. All of the stamp revenues, beyond printing and handling costs, are used solely for the acquisition of additional migratory bird refuges.

Prior to 1949, wildlife artists were commissioned to provide the design for the annual stamp. Since that time, the design has been chosen by a contest open to all artists who are residents or citizens of the United States.

The annual contest held by the Service is the only art contest regularly sponsored by the Federal Government. The colorful stamps that are selected through the contest constitute the longest running, annually issued series of stamps in revenue or postage stamp history.